

INTELLOFAX 19

CLASSIFICATION -

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET//CONFIDENTIAL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO..

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 27 June 1951

SUBJECT Air Force Strength

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. The Chief of the Bulgarian Air Force is General Zakhari Zakhariyev, a former Soviet officer and a Bulgarian immigrant to Russia. The officer cadre of the Air Force has greatly changed and its personnel could now be considered entirely in favor of the regime; former pilots were let out and deserving Party members given pilot training to take their places. Beginning in 1951 a certain number of old officers have been recalled as instructors and junior staff officers. At the present time there are on active duty approximately 200 qualified pilots. The schools are undergoing heavy pressure to turn out new qualified pilots.
2. The Air Force currently has at its disposal the following aircraft:
 - a. 150 fighters - mainly Yak-type Soviet planes and some German Messerschmidts.
 - b. 80 bombers - Soviet Stormovik and some German Heinkels.
 - c. 100 trainers - Both Bulgarian and Soviet types.
3. The following large airfields have all facilities, including concrete runways, warning service, and workshops: Bozhurishte and Vrazhdebna in the Sofia area, Plovdiv and Yambol. There are also large airfields in Varna, Gorna Oryakhovitsa and Telish. These airfields can accommodate all types of planes including large bombers.
4. Throughout the country there are a number of smaller airfields, without all the facilities of those mentioned above: Maslovo (east of Sofia), Karlovo (presently undergoing enlargement to become a major airfield for fighters), Graf Ignatievo, Orizovo, Burgas, Sliven, Kazanluk (undergoing major enlargement and repairs), Ardino and Kurdzhali. There are also many emergency airfields which have undergone slight improvements to make them more useful. During the summer of 1950 a program was started for the construction of new airfields in Nevrokop and Radomir.

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL - U.S.~~

1997-1998

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION	Document No.
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FBI		No Change in Class.

☐ Declassified

Class, Changed To: TS S

Auth.1 HR 70-2